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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

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Comment: The Rumanian metallurgical industry was reported by January Bucharest newspapers to have started 1953 with a vigorous drive for higher production of metals and metal products. The newspapers devoted the greatest amount of space to rolled products. Special production efforts were reported in honor of the new year and in honor of the Third Trade Union Congress. Good results were reported through the use of the Vasile Costache innovation. Construction of a coke-chemical plant in Hunedoara, an electric furnace at Progresul, and a new machine factory at Resita were also reported.

It is interesting to note in this connection that similar drives in other Rumanian industries occurred when increased production was desired, usually prior to the appointment of a new minister, the removal of an old minister, or in the final phase of an economic plan [redacted]

An article appearing in Romania Libera on 18 January 1953, gives evidence of the possibility that the purpose of the present metallurgical drive is fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan in 4 years.

Progress of the drive, as reported in Viata Sindicala and Romania Libera, is given below.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

New Year's Drive

On 4 January, Viata Sindicala reported that a drive for greater production in 1953 was instituted at the Iosif Rangheta Machine Tool Plant. On 1 January, smelters, lathe operators, fraying machine operators, assemblers, and sheet metal workers were stimulated in their efforts to exceed quotas by the factory chorus, accompanied by an orchestra. As a result, machine section No 2 exceeded norms for the day 80 percent. (1)

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The 3 January issue of the same newspaper described the start of the 1953 production drive at IMS Roman. Workers of that plant arrived early on 1 January. They were greeted at the main gate by banners and slogans. As a result, Ion Gherasim of the screw section exceeded his norm 80 percent. Lathe Operators Iacob Dumitru and Mendel Soefer, each operating two lathes, exceeded their quotas 65 percent.(2)

Two articles appearing in Viata Sindicala on 4 January described similar drives at Sovromtractor and Steaua Rosie. All sections of Sovromtractor worked hard to exceed norms for the first day of 1953. Men working on tractor parts, sheet metal workers, and lathe operators produced as much as three norms during the day. At Steaua Rosie in Bucharest, Stakhanovite Mihai Dobrescu, fraising machine operator of lathe section No II, fulfilled his norm 300 percent of the first day of 1953 by using the Voroshin and Zhandarova methods.(1)

At Vulcan, Stakhanovite Teodor Balan, a model lathe operator, arrived 15 minutes ahead of time to begin work on his quota for the new year, Viata Sindicala reported. At 1030 hours of the same day, the machine section of the plant had fulfilled its entire day's quota, using the Baykov-Bortkevich method. In the assembly section a team under Stakhanovite Dumitru Honceru fulfilled its daily norm in 3 hours.(2) At Resita, blast furnaces No 3 and No 6 exceeded their planned production of steel on 1 January 1953. At Grivita Rosie, Stakhanovite Alexandru Botangu, chief of brigade No 1 in steel smelting section VI-a, exceeded his norm 30 percent on 1 January 1953.(1)

On 15 January, Viata Sindicala stated that the smelting section of Strugul in Stalin produced 10 tons of liquid steel above quota in the first days of January 1953. Union activists in this section exceeded quotas as much as 50 percent and reduced the number of rejects. Leading Smelter Gheorghe Mathe, organizer of union group No 1 reduced idle time to such a degree that he was able to obtain a charge of steel in his electric furnace in less than 2 hours. In the pneumatic tool section, metalworkers and lathe operators are 10 days ahead of schedule. In the machine tool section, Leading Metalworker Iosif Orban, organizer of union group No 47, and Mururel Diaconu, organizer of union group No 50, have organized competitions which raised production the article concluded. Another article on the same day declared that teams of steel and sheet metal workers in the steel section of Industria Sarmei were exceeding quotas for the new year.(3)

Additional Incentives

On 14 January, Viata Sindicala published an article stating that furnace No 4 of Hinedoara was exceeding quotas in the first 11 days of 1953.(4) On 18 January, Romania Libera reported that workers of Matyas Rakosi had called for competitions in the metallurgical industry to fulfill the Five-Year Plan in 4 years. This led workers of ICAR and other plants to achieve improved results.(5)

The Matyas Rakosi Plant was reported by Viata Sindicala of 23 January to be holding a competition for increased production in honor of the Third Trade Union Congress. The competition was led by the lathe-motor section, which exceeded its pledge 60 percent. The equipment section followed with 36 percent. Individual teams in the smelting section were also successful.(6) Siemens-Martin furnaces of Sovrommetal prepared 152 tons of steel above the plan, in honor of the Third Trade Union Congress Viata Sindicala reported on 28 January. The smelting section fulfilled its entire January plan by 23 January, producing steel for locomotive construction and for petroleum equipment to be built by Sovromutilaj-petrolifer. In addition, the boiler section completed six locomotive boilers on 18 January.(7)

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In January, the Vasile Costache method for increased production was spread throughout the industry. In a 14 January article, Viata Sindicala stated that the method was in use by furnaces of Hunedoara. As a result of the use of this method, a furnace team under Stakhanovite Lepadus Munteanu exceeded the index for utilization of furnaces by 21.24 percent, a new record in the industry.(4) An article appearing in the same newspaper on the following day reported increased production at Siemens-Martin furnace No 4, Hunedoara, as a result of the use of the Vasile Costache method.(3) The use of the Costache method by furnaces No 1 and No 2 of Sovromtractor in Stalin resulted in daily production of 4 tons and 3 tons above norm, respectively, Viata Sindicala reported on 23 January.(6)

Competitions of various types spurred production at the Metallo-Chemica Enterprise in Oradea, the same paper stated in its 28 January issue.(7) The collective of the 21 Decembrie Metallurgical Enterprise in Radauti obtained excellent results through competitions, the paper reported on 16 January.(8) On 18 January Viata Sindicala reported that production was being stepped up at 23 August in Bucharest. Almost all workers in the light machine section were engaged in competition. The 30 Decembrie women's brigade pledged early fulfillment of its plan for producing bolts and other items. Marin D. Marin, operating a Rumanian Victora lathe, fulfilled his norm 200 percent. In the heavy machine section which makes cement kilns, Stakhanovite Miulescu ^{fnu}, a fraising machine operator, fulfilled his daily quotas 250 percent. A team of smelters in the steel mill exceeded daily quotas by 40 percent.(9)

Sheet Metal Drive

The greatest attention in the drive for greater metallurgical production was devoted to sheet metal. On 6 January, Viata Sindicala reported that Otelul Rosu was carrying on a drive for more output by its plate and profile sections.(10)

On 7 January, the same newspaper described a movement in Hunedoara to achieve maximum use of internal reserves. The movement originated as the result of a suggestion made by Stakhanovite Vasile Costache. During discussions of this innovation of Costache, Stakhanovite Vasile Zavlas, a sheet metal worker, pledged to increase the index of utilization of production facilities by 9 percent in the rolling mill furnace operated by his section, and save the equivalent of 300,000 lei in 1953. The entire rolling mill pledged a 9 percent increase in production and savings of 1,150,000 lei.(11)

Viata Sindicala reported on 8 January that the team of Ion Trifu, of the rolling mill in Hunedoara, achieved a 12 percent greater index of utilization of sheet metal than planned. One of the measures taken for faster production was the transport of buckets of hot steel from the smelter to the rolling mill. This reduced the time needed by the rolling mill to reheat the metal.(12)

On 11 January, the same newspaper described the rolling mill of the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej Steel Combine as being adjacent to the Siemens-Martin furnaces. Both sections operate in three shifts. The steelworkers prepare rapid charges and send blocks of steel to the rolling mill. These blocks are then transformed into thin bars. The production of this rolling mill is used to fill Rumanian domestic needs only. In the past it was possible to produce 70-80 blocks of steel per shift of the rolling mill. At present, 110 blocks per shift are being produced.(13)

The rolling mill of Hunedoara is saving thousands of kilograms of crude oil daily through the rapid reheating of metal from the Siemens-Martin steel section, according to Viata Sindicala of 20 January.(14) On 22 January, Romania Libera published two articles on increased production of sheet metal

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at Resita and Boleslaw Beirut.(15) Viata Sindicala of the same date stated that the collective of the Cristea Nicolae Steel Plant in Galati had ordered workers to fulfill the 1953 production plan in 11 months and 10 days, through the use of competitions and Soviet methods. The new Soviet methods have already been applied at the rolling mill.(16)

The 24 January issue of Viata Sindicala reported that sheet metal workers in the profile section, the plate section, the leaf section, the smelting mill, and the construction section had achieved significant successes in production.(17) The rolling mill of Sovrommetal is daily producing more and more sheet metal for the manufacture of locomotives, railroad rails, and other industrial items, according to Viata Sindicala of 25 January 1953.(18)

New Installations

Three new installations were set up in January 1953. Romania Libera declared on 18 January that electric furnace No 2 had been installed at Progresul in Braila. Errors occurring in the installation of furnace No 1 were not repeated. However, electrodes one and 3 failed to operate at first.(5) On 23 January, Viata Sindicala indicated that work was progressing rapidly on a new coke-chemical plant in Hunedoara.(6) On 25 January, the same newspaper mentioned a new machine factory under Sovrommetal in Resita.(18)

Miner's Health

Efforts to improve health conditions at the Ghelar iron mines in order to increase the mining of iron ore were reported by Viata Sindicala on 23 January, as follows:

Under the previous regime miners were forced to go to Deva, a distance of 50 kilometers to find a hospital. Under the people's democratic regime a new dispensary was set up, and, in 1949, a hospital for iron miners was erected. The hospital was supplied with X-ray and surgical equipment and provided with a complete pharmaceutical department. Eight medical specialists, including surgeons, radiologists, stomatologists, and specialists in internal medicine were assigned to the installation.

Today the hospital has ten doctors, who work with the state insurance administration for the prevention of disease and accidents. For example, a short time ago, upon the advice of these physicians, the Ghelar administration introduced wet drilling to prevent silicosis. Ventilation equipment was installed to create even temperatures and thus prevent pneumonia. Drifts were provided with carbonated drinking water to help prevent dysentery. Periodic examinations were undertaken for workers with chronic diseases or weaknesses, stomach ulcers, and liver and kidney ailments. A total of 78 miners were sent to special rest homes in 1952.(6) On 31 January, Romania Libera reported that the January ore plan was fulfilled at Ghelar as a result of the continued production drive. New drills and hammers, installation of ventilation equipment, and underground mechanization aided miners to fulfill quotas.(19)

Criticism of Industrial Weaknesses

Two articles critical of enterprises in the metallurgical industry appeared in Viata Sindicala on 16 and 18 January. On 16 January, the newspaper stated that the 7 Noembrie Metallurgical Enterprise in Craiova had failed to realize that the maintenance of records was a responsibility of both the administration and of the enterprise committee. In addition, the newspaper charged that the administration and the enterprise committee had failed to publicize the work of the Stakhanovites.

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For example, in the lathe section of the enterprise, numerous leading workers and Stakhanovites pledged increased production in honor of the Third Trade Union Congress. However, no record was kept of these pledges. Individual workers challenged others to competitions, but no graph was set up on these competitions and no records kept. Stakhanovite Lathe Operator Florea Padureanu, in charge of mass political work in production, did nothing to combat this passive attitude on the part of the administration.(8)

On 18 January, Vasile Lupu, dispatcher at the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej Steel Combine, reported in Viata Sindicala that the combine had received hundreds of carloads of limestone used in the preparation of steel in the Siemens-Martin furnaces. Lupe wrote as follows: "These cars were not unloaded upon arrival. This prevented the cars from being used again immediately and increased the costs to the enterprise above the planned costs. The administration of the combine did nothing to prepare a storage place, and, therefore, when the cars were eventually needed elsewhere, the limestone was dumped in the open. Large quantities thus exposed to the weather decomposed into powder and became unusable. It appears that the gentlemen in the administration of the combine have little concern for the fulfillment of the plan. This is not the first case in which materials indispensable to the production process were thus neglected. Tons of coke and other materials have gone to waste. Urgent measures must be taken to store the materials under the best possible conditions, and the responsibility for carelessness toward the property of the people must be fixed."(9)

SOURCES

1. Viata Sindicala, 4 Jan 53
2. Ibid., 3 Jan 53
3. Ibid., 15 Jan 53
4. Ibid., 14 Jan 53
5. Romania Libera, 18 Jan 53
6. Viata Sindicala, 23 Jan 53
7. Ibid., 28 Jan 53
8. Ibid., 16 Jan 53
9. Ibid., 18 Jan 53
10. Ibid., 6 Jan 53
11. Ibid., 7 Jan 53
12. Ibid., 8 Jan 53
13. Ibid., 11 Jan 53
14. Ibid., 20 Jan 53
15. Romania Libera, 22 Jan 53

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16. Viata Sindicala, 22 Jan 53
17. Ibid., 24 Jan 53
18. Ibid., 25 Jan 53
19. Romania Libera, 31 Jan 53

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